

Appl. No. 09/854,812  
Amdt. dated November 2, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2005

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims

1-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A surgical snare instrument, comprising:  
an elongate flexible tubular sheath;  
a flexible shaft extending through and movable relative to the sheath, the shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;  
a snare coupled to the distal end of the shaft;  
a first handle coupled to the shaft, the first handle including a body and a knob, wherein rotation of the knob results in rotation of the shaft; [[and]]  
a second handle coupled to the shaft; and  
wherein the first handle and the second handle are longitudinally separated by a tubular sheath extension.

43. (Currently Amended) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 42, wherein the further comprising a tubular sheath extension couples coupling the first handle to the second handle.

44. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 43, wherein the knob further comprises a bore and wherein the shaft extends through the bore.

45. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 44, wherein the bore has a non-circular cross section.

46. (Currently Amended) A surgical snare instrument, comprising:  
an elongate flexible tubular sheath;

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a flexible shaft extending through and movable relative to the sheath, the shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a snare coupled to the distal end of the shaft;

a first handle coupled to the shaft, the first handle including a body and a knob, wherein rotation of the knob results in rotation of the shaft;

a second handle coupled to the shaft;

further comprising a tubular sheath extension coupling the first handle to the second handle;

wherein the knob further comprises a bore and wherein the shaft extends through the bore;

wherein the bore has a non-circular cross section; and

~~The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 45,~~ wherein the shaft further comprises a key portion provided with a non-circular cross section engageable with the non-circular cross section of the bore.

47. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 42, further comprising mounting means for mounting the first handle to an endoscope such that the shaft extends through a working channel of the endoscope.

48. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 47, wherein the mounting means is adapted to adjustably fix the distal end of the sheath relative to a distal end of the endoscope.

49. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 42, further comprising means for providing a cautery current to the shaft.

50. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 42, wherein the second handle further comprises a stationary member and a spool member slidable relative to the stationary member, and wherein sliding the spool member results in longitudinal movement of the shaft.

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51. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 50, the first handle is located distal of the second handle.

52. (Currently Amended) A surgical snare instrument, comprising:  
an elongate flexible tubular sheath;  
a flexible shaft extending through and movable relative to the sheath, the shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;  
a snare coupled to the distal end of the shaft;  
a first handle coupled to the shaft, the first handle including a body and a knob, wherein rotation of the knob results in rotation of the shaft; [[and]]  
a second handle coupled to the shaft, the second handle including a stationary member and a spool member slidable relative to the stationary member, wherein sliding the spool member results in longitudinal movement of the shaft; and  
wherein the first handle and the second handle are longitudinally separated by a tubular sheath extension.

53. (Currently Amended) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 52, wherein the further comprising a tubular sheath extension couples coupling the first handle to the second handle.

54. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 53, wherein the knob further comprises a bore and wherein the shaft extends through the bore.

55. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 54, wherein the bore has a non-circular cross section.

56. (Currently Amended) A surgical snare instrument, comprising:  
an elongate flexible tubular sheath;  
a flexible shaft extending through and movable relative to the sheath, the shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;  
a snare coupled to the distal end of the shaft;

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a first handle coupled to the shaft, the first handle including a body and a knob, wherein rotation of the knob results in rotation of the shaft;

a second handle coupled to the shaft, the second handle including a stationary member and a spool member slidable relative to the stationary member, wherein sliding the spool member results in longitudinal movement of the shaft;

further comprising a tubular sheath extension coupling the first handle to the second handle;

wherein the knob further comprises a bore and wherein the shaft extends through the bore;

wherein the bore has a non-circular cross section; and

~~The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 55,~~ wherein the shaft further comprises a key portion provided with a non-circular cross section engageable with the non-circular cross section of the bore.

57. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 52, further comprising mounting means for mounting the first handle to an endoscope such that the shaft extends through a working channel of the endoscope.

58. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 57, wherein the mounting means is adapted to adjustably fix the distal end of the sheath relative to a distal end of the endoscope.

59. (Previously Presented) The surgical snare instrument in accordance with claim 52, further comprising means for providing a cautery current to the shaft.

60. (Currently Amended) A surgical snare instrument, comprising:  
an elongate flexible tubular sheath;  
a flexible shaft extending through and movable relative to the sheath, the shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;  
a snare coupled to the distal end of the shaft;

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a first handle coupled to the shaft, the first handle including a body and a knob, wherein rotation of the knob results in rotation of the shaft;

a second handle coupled to the shaft, the second handle including a stationary member and a spool member slidable relative to the stationary member, wherein sliding the spool member results in longitudinal movement of the shaft; and

wherein the first handle and the second handle are longitudinally separated by a tubular sheath extension, wherein the tubular sheath extension couples ~~coupling~~ the first handle to the second handle.

61. (Previously Presented) A surgical snare instrument, comprising:

an elongate flexible tubular sheath;

a flexible shaft extending through and movable relative to the sheath, the shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a key portion;

a snare coupled to the distal end of the shaft;

a first handle coupled to the shaft, the first handle including a body and a knob having a central bore engageable with the key portion of the shaft, wherein rotation of the knob results in rotation of the shaft;

a second handle coupled to the shaft, the second handle including a stationary member and a spool member slidable relative to the stationary member, wherein sliding the spool member results in longitudinal movement of the shaft; and

a tubular sheath extension coupling the first handle to the second handle.